

H. B. Preston: The original specimens of *Vitrea glabra* (Studer) from which the species was first identified as British.

A. S. Kennard: A specimen of *Dreissensia polymorpha* (Pallas) from the Holocene of Clifton Hampden. The species is generally considered to be a recent importation.

E. R. Sykes: A specimen of *Voluta Rossiniana* (Bernardi).

E. A. Smith, A. S. Kennard, and B. B. Woodward: Specimens in illustration of their papers.

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#### ORDINARY MEETING.

FRIDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1902.

E. A. SMITH, F.Z.S., etc., President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. "Notes on Mollusca, Terrestrial and Marine: (i) from the Late Celtic (early Iron Age) burial-ground of Harlyn Bay; (ii) from a Bronze Age interment, Harlyn cliffs; (iii) from a Neolithic potter's hut, Constantine Island; (iv) from kitchen middens on Constantine cliff, and at Constantine Church." By the Rev. R. Ashington Bullen, F.L.S., etc.

2. "Description of a new species of *Achatina* from Basutoland." By E. A. Smith, F.Z.S., etc.

3. "On *Corona Pfeifferi*, var. *gracilis*, n.var., from S.E. Columbia." By E. A. Smith, F.Z.S., etc.

4. "Notes on the *Clausilia* of Tonkin." By E. R. Sykes, B.A., F.L.S., etc.

5. "Note on the histology of Molluscan and other olfactory nerve centres." By R. H. Burne, B.A., F.Z.S., etc.

Exhibits were placed on the table by the following:—

W. M. Webb: Photographs of pottery from ancient Peruvian graves moulded into the form of molluscan shells.

R. H. Burne: A specimen of *Axinus flexuosus* (Montagu) with the vermiform foot extended.

The Rev. R. A. Bullen, E. A. Smith, E. R. Sykes, and R. H. Burne: Specimens in illustration of their papers.

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#### NOTES.

LAND-SHELLS USED AS MODELS BY ANCIENT PERUVIAN POTTERS. (*Read 14th March, 1902.*)—Towards the end of 1901, Sir Spenser St. John, formerly H.M. Minister resident in Peru, disposed of his large collection of ancient Peruvian pottery. Mr. Stevens, the well-known auctioneer, in whose hands the specimens were placed, very kindly gave the writer every facility for examining and photographing them. The vessels in question

came from graves in which they had been placed with the mummies of the old Peruvians, who buried their dead in a sitting posture and tied up in a sort of bale. Some of the pots originally held food and others drink, intended "for the use of the spirit of the deceased during his journey to the other world." The designs of the various articles were nearly all borrowed from animal sources, plant structures were very rarely copied; and the majority of the human faces and figures represented were intentionally



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

grotesque; nearly all showed clever modelling and a very much higher order of art than that to be seen in the drawings with which one piece of pottery, at least, was embellished. Two examples among the four hundred which were dispersed on October 10th are of some interest to the members of this Society. The first (Fig. 1) represents a snail shell, which may well have been copied from some helicoid species, with the mouth forming the opening of the vessel, and brought round to the upper or spire side of the shell. This specimen is now in the possession of the Rev. R. Ashington Bullen. The other piece of pottery which is worthy of mention in this connection (Fig. 2) is a bottle or flask, which like many others is provided with a hollow handle communicating with and supporting the neck. The body of the vessel is not, as is often the case, fashioned in the shape of a human head, but is embellished instead with three bulimoid snails in relief. In these the eye-bearing tentacles are directed backwards against the shell, and support for them is thus gained at the expense of accuracy. The Rev. Randolph Berens is now the possessor of this vessel, which unfortunately is cracked.

WILFRED MARK WEBB.